



HAZARD FUEL REDUCTION PROJECT



Liming Lane before the Hazard Fuel Reduction Project.



Liming Lane after the Hazard Fuel Reduction Project.

Introduction

Hazardous fuel reduction is a key component of any integrated fire management program. Recent incidents from across the nation where fire has escaped from wooded areas into surrounding communities have highlighted the need for advanced planning and the reduction of potential hazards related to wildland fires. The Hazard Fuel Reduction Project at Prince William Forest Park includes the removal of hazardous fuels along roads and around historic structures to provide a defensible area from which the spread of a wildfire can be safely stopped. The park staff worked with National Park Service fire professionals and the National Interagency Fire Center to develop and implement a Hazard Fuel Reduction Project along roads and in cabin camp areas.

Policy

National Park Service Director's Order 18, Section 5.9, Fuels Management, directs the parks to:

"identify, manage, and reduce where appropriate, accumulations of hazardous fuels [and] to reduce, to the extent possible, hazardous fuels in the wildland/urban interface."

The Prince William Forest Park Resource

Management Plan (RMP), Project Statement PRWI-N-200.300, Vegetation Management/Fire Management recommends that staff:

"continue to remove accumulated timber within the buffer zone established in the Fire Management Plan under Fuel Reduction to protect developed areas."

What are Hazardous Fuels?

Wildland fire fuels are naturally occurring materials capable of burning including grasses, leaves, branches, and trees. When these fuels accumulate near structures or along areas designated as fire breaks, they are considered hazardous fuels.

Fuels are divided into categories based on how fast they will burn. The categories

and fuel descriptions used for wildland fire include:

<u>Category</u>	<u>Fuels</u>
1-hour	Dried leaves and grasses
10-hour	Small branches and shrubs
100-hour	Large branches and small trees
1000-hour	Large trees

Why is the park conducting a Hazard Fuel Reduction project?

The purpose of this fuel reduction project is to create and maintain defensible fire breaks that reduce the risk of wildland fire to structures and the environment while providing for firefighter and public safety. The project areas selected contain large amounts of dead and down ground fuels that have accumulated for many years as a result of storm and gypsy moth damage. During fires, these fuels can contribute to increased fire intensity and resistance to

control by fire crews and equipment. This project will reduce fire intensity along these breaks and will create conditions that are more favorable for fire suppression. The fire breaks will reduce the risk to human life, minimize risk to property, and protect the natural and cultural resource values associated with these areas.

Project Description

The Hazard Fuel Reduction Project covers approximately 403 acres. The targeted areas include all land within 50 feet of paved and unpaved park roads and areas within 100 feet of cabin camp buildings. The project involves the following work:

1. Cutting and chipping all dead and downed wood between one and six inches in diameter (one, ten, and hundred hour fuel) that is located within 50 feet of the roadway edges and 100 feet of the cabin camp structures.

2. Flattening all dead and downed wood greater than six inches in diameter

(thousand hour fuels) to promote decay.

3. Chipping or removing all dead tree parts greater than one inch in diameter that are located within 10 feet of the roadway ditch lines and cabin camp structures.

All work is to be conducted Monday through Friday during normal business hours to minimize noise impacts on park visitors and neighbors. The project began in February 2004 and is expected to take six months to complete.

For more information...

If you would like to learn more about the Hazard Fuel Reduction Project, please contact the Prince William Forest Park Resource Management Program at 703-221-2176.

This project is a component of the park Fire Management Program. The Wildland Fire Management Plan is currently being revised in accordance with the National Fire Plan and Department of the Interior directives. The planning process relies heavily on public participation. If you would like to be involved, please contact the park's Fire Management Officer 703-221-5845 or add your name to the park's mailing list using the contact information provided below.

For more information about the Fire Management Program, please visit us online at www.nps.gov/prwi/Fire_Management.htm.

Please address any comments, issues, or concerns to:

Bob Hickman, Superintendent
Prince William Forest Park
18100 Park Headquarters Rd.
Triangle, VA 22172

Phone: 703-221-2366
Fax: 703-221-4322